

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3000

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KS, KN, UN

SUBJ: KOREA IN 29TH GA - NEW ITEM

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM, DRAFTED IN COOPERATION WITH KOREAN MINISTER HAM, TO ACCOMPANY REQUEST FOR NEW KOREAN ITEM. IF DEPT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, WE PLAN DISTRIBUTE THIS TEXT AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL MEETING SEPT 3 WITH VIEW TO SUBMITTING IT TO UN SECRETARIAT ASAP WITH SUCH MINOR MODIFICATIONS AS AMBASSADORIAL GROUP MAY DECIDE UPON.

BEGIN TEXT

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS TO DISCUSS THE KOREAN QUESTION IT IS BOTH IMPORTANT AND URGENT THAT IT DO SO IN A BALANCED WAY WHICH FULLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION IN KOREA. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SUCH DEBATE SHOULD BE HELD IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD AND NON-ARGUMENTATIVE MANNER, CONSISTENT WITH THE NEED TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND  
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SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, AND THE CONSENSUS OF

THE 28TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2. THE HISTORY OF THE KOREAN QUESTION MAY BE USEFULLY SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE UNITED NATIONS SINCE ITS INCEPTION HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE QUESTION OF KOREA. SINCE 1947 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS HAS CONTINUOUSLY REAFFIRMED THAT ITS OBJECTIVE IS "TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL UNIFICATION BY ESTABLISHING A UNITED, INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC KOREA UNDER A REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT." IN 1948 THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

B) IN JUNE 1950, APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AFTER THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, WAR BROKE OUT ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. IN RESPONSE TO A CALL ISSUED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, 16 MEMBER STATES FROM FIVE CONTINENTS SENT FORCES TO ASSIST IN THE DEFENSE OF SOUTH KOREA. ON JULY 7, 1950, THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND WAS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

C) IN 1953 THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED. SINCE THEN, THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, AS A SIGNATORY OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, HAS CONTINUED TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IS PRESENT IN KOREA AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND HAS NOT INTERFERED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE HOST COUNTRY.

D). ON JULY 4, 1972, WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE SOUTH-NORTH JOINT COMMUNIQUE, DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTS OF KOREA WAS OPENED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY. THE PURPOSE OF THIS DIALOGUE HAS BEEN TO ACHIEVE THE INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF KOREA.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST YEAR REACHED A CONSENSUS WHICH RECEIVED THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF ALL MEMBER STATES. IN THIS CONSENSUS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE ISSUANCE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE BY SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA AND EXPRESSED THE GENERAL HOPE THAT SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA WOULD BE URGED TO CONTINUE THEIR DIALOGUE AND WIDEN THEIR MANY-SIDED

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EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION. THE CONSENSUS ALSO INCLUDED THE DISSOLUTION OF UNCURK. BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA FULLY ENDORSED THIS CONSENSUS.

4. THE ONLY PART OF THIS CONSENSUS IMPLEMENTED SO FAR HAS BEEN THE DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA. THE SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE, HOWEVER, HAS MADE NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS

IN SPITE OF REPEATED PROPOSALS FROM THE SOUTH KOREAN SIDE TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. AT THE SAME TIME THERE HAVE BEEN SERIOUS INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE TENDED TO EXACERBATE EXISTING TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY THAT THE REMAINING PART OF THE CONSENSUS, URGING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTS OF KOREA BE IMPLEMENTED.

5. IT IS FOR THE ABOVE REASONS THAT THE SIGNATORIES OF THIS LETTER REQUEST THE INCLUSION IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 29TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AN ITEM ENTITLED: "THE QUESTION OF KOREA: URGENT NEED FOR FULLY IMPLEMENTING THE CONSENSUS OF THE 28TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA."

6. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION IS THE MOST REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE STEP WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD TAKE IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED TO MOVE TOWARDS THE GOAL OF PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF KOREA WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT AND IS STILL ENCOURAGING.  
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